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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL OECD CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 406844

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PM](#) [OAS](#)
SUBJECT: OAS "REGRETS" U. S. ACTION

REF: (A) 89 STATE 404719, (B) 89 STATE 406637

¶1. (U) THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATE (OAS), IN A MARATHON SPECIAL SESSION, ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 20 - 1 (US), WITH 6 ABSTENTIONS (ANTIGUA, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, GUATEMALA, AND VENEZUELA) A RESOLUTION THAT:

--"DEEPLY REGRETS" THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN PANAMA;
--URGES IMMEDIATE "CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND BLOODSHED;" AND
--CALLS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS "USED FOR THE MILITARY INTERVENTION." (THIS WORDING IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZES THE LEGITIMATE PRESENCE OF US FORCES IN PANAMA PURSUANT TO CANAL TREATIES BY NOT REFERRING TO ALL U.S. FORCES.) THE RESOLUTION STOPS SHORT OF CONDEMNING U.S. ACTION, AND NICARAGUA WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW AN EARLIER MORE CRITICAL RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, A DETERMINED CENTRAL AMERICAN ATTEMPT TO BALANCE THE RESOLUTION BY EXPRESSLY DENOUNCING NORIEGA WAS DEFEATED WHEN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES JOINED THE GROUP OF EIGHT IN ARGUING THAT NOTHING JUSTIFIES MILITARY INTERVENTION.

¶2. (C) USOAS AMBASSADOR EINAUDI DELIVERED A STATEMENT (SEPTEL) BLASTING NORIEGA AND TAKING THE OAS TO TASK FOR A MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AT THIS HISTORICAL MOMENT. THE USOAS DELEGATION SUCCEEDED IN SOFTENING THE RESOLUTION AND DELAYING THE VOTE, DESPITE GROWING CRITICISM FROM LATIN AMERICA.

¶3. (U) TEXT OF OAS RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

HAVING SEEN:

THE SERIOUS EVENTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, ESPECIALLY THE ARMED CLASHES RESULTING FROM THE MILITARY INTERVENTION BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE DEPLORABLE LOSS OF LIVES AND

THE OBLIGATION OF STATES NOT TO INTERVENE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, FOR ANY REASON WHATEVER, IN THE INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY OTHER STATE; AND

THE OBLIGATION TO RESPECT THE INVIOABILITY OF THE TERRITORY OF A STATE, WHICH MAY NOT BE THE OBJECT, EVEN TEMPORARILY, OF MILITARY OCCUPATION OR OF OTHER MEASURES OF FORCE TAKEN BY ANOTHER STATE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ON ANY GROUNDS WHATEVER; AND

CONSIDERING:

THE PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION I ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON MAY 17, 1989 AND THE DECLARATIONS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTED ON JUNE 6, JULY 20, AND AUGUST 24, 1989 ON THE PANAMANIAN CRISIS IN ITS INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT;

THAT, AT THE NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUESTED THE PERMANENT COUNCIL TO KEEP THE SITUATION IN PANAMA UNDER PERMANENT CONSIDERATION;

THAT ANY JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION TO THE PANAMANIAN PROBLEM MUST BE BASED ON FULL RESPECT FOR THE RIGHT OF ITS PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE;

THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE FULL RESPECT FOR THE

SOVEREIGNTY OF PANAMA; AND

THAT IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO REESTABLISH CONDITIONS THAT WILL GUARANTEE THE FULL EXERCISE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE, AND

THAT THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE HAVE AN INALIENABLE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION WITHOUT INTERNAL DICTATES OR EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE.

RESOLVES:

(1) TO DEEPLY REGRET THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN PANAMA.

(2) TO URGE THE IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND BLOODSHED AND TO REQUEST THE LAUNCHING OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS POLITICAL SECTORS OF THE COUNTRY THAT WILL LEAD TO A CONCERTED SOLUTION TO THE PANAMANIAN INSTITUTIONAL CRISIS.

(3) TO EXPRESS ITS DEEPEST CONCERN OVER THE SERIOUS INCIDENTS AND THE LOSS OF LIVES TAKING PLACE IN THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA.

(4) TO CALL FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FOREIGN TROOPS USED FOR THE MILITARY INTERVENTION AND TO REAFFIRM THAT SOLVING THE CRISIS PANAMA IS UNDERGOING AT THIS TIME NECESSARILY REQUIRES FULL RESPECT FOR THE RIGHT OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE AND FAITHFUL ADHERENCE TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATIES.

(5) TO EXPRESS THE NEED TO COMPLY WITH THE OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED BY THE STATES PARTIES TO THE VIENNA CONVENTIONS ON DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RELATIONS.

(6) TO URGE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) BE PROVIDED WITH THE FACILITIES AND COOPERATION NECESSARY FOR IT TO CARRY OUT ITS HUMANITARIAN WORK WITH THE WOUNDED AND THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.

(7) TO EXPRESS ITS FRATERNAL SUPPORT FOR AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE AND TO URGE THAT THE PARTIES INVOLVED ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SAFEGUARDING THE LIVES AND PERSONAL SAFETY OF ALL THE INHABITANTS OF PANAMA.

(8) TO RECOMMEND THAT A NEW SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF CONSULTATION BE HELD WHEN APPROPRIATE TO EXAMINE THE PANAMANIAN SITUATION AS A WHOLE.

(9) TO INSTRUCT THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS TO TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

END TEXT OF RESOLUTION

14. A BRIEF SUMMARY OF POSITIONS TAKEN BY INDIVIDUAL OAS MEMBERS IS INCLUDED IN SEPTEL.

PANAMA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

EAGLEBURGER